

Back to the Farm

After he graduated from Independence High School, Harry worked several different jobs. He worked in a bank in downtown Kansas City and was a timekeeper for a railroad. In 1906 Harry returned to Grandview to help his father on the family farm. "It was on the farm that Harry got his common sense." His mother, Martha, remarked that the years Harry spent farming gave him "...his common sense."

In Truman's words:

"In Spring and Fall there'd be plowing to do. Our plow required four horses or mules to pull it. If an early start was had, about five acres could be broken up into a day...not an eight hour one but, in say, ten or twelve hours."

"Riding one of these plows all day, day after day, gives one time to think."

"My father was a very honorable man. If he guaranteed a horse, in a horse trade that was as good as a bond. If he agreed to do a day's work for a certain amount of money he'd give good measure on the work."

THINK ABOUT IT :

Many years later, Harry talked about his time spent as a farmer and about his father.

As you read his words, think about all of the things that he learned from both the farm and his dad. Record character traits (one word) that describe what Truman learned on the farm.

Example: hardworking.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

